Using EPHT Core Messages	What is Health & Environmental Linked for Information Exchange (HELIX-Atlanta)?	What is Health & Environmental Linked for Information Exchange (HELIX-Atlanta)? continued	What are benefits of HELIX-Atlanta?	Why do we need HELIX-Atlanta?	What is the status of HELIX-Atlanta?	What is the status of HELIX-Atlanta? continued
Interviews for News Program	It will be a local network for linking health and environmental information. It will include information about environmental hazards and human exposure to them. It will include information about non-infectious diseases and human health conditions. It will link hazard, exposure, and health information. This local network will be unique. It will focus on methods to integrate environmental and health data. It will link data from five metro Atlanta counties. It will provide information to local users.	The CDC, NCEH and 70 partners are leading the effort to build HELIX-Atlanta • Partners include: • NASA • U.S. EPA • Georgia Division of Public Health • DeKalb County Board of Health • Georgia Environmental Protection Division • Emory University • Georgia Institute for Technology • Kaiser Permanente Georgia • National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities • Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	HELIX-ATLANTA will bring together existing information from a number of sources. • Local sources of information from five metro Atlanta counties will be included. • Hazard, exposure, and health data will be brought together. • Users will have timely access to this information. HELIX-ATLANTA will provide more and better information to guide activities. • Communities will have better information to guide their actions. • Scientists can identify issues for further investigation. • Officials will be better able to know if programs are needed and working. HELIX-ATLANTA will be a local network. • Information from many sources will be put into standard form. • The system will be secure and reliable. • The system will grow as more information becomes available.	 The environment plays an important role in human health. Some relationships between hazards in the environment and disease are known. Some relationships are suspected. Tracking provides a tool to monitor health and environment and guide actions. Studies report that current tracking is inadequate. The Institute of Medicine reported that there is too little attention to health aspects of environmental problems. A study funded by the Pew Charitable Trust reported that tracking is fragmented, uncoordinated, and inadequate. There is no local program to track health and environment together. Mostly, environmental and health information are not connected. The information is scattered in a number of places and forms. In this situation, it is difficult to study and monitor relationships. 	HELIX-Atlanta will focus initially on methods to integrate environmental and health data. • Information from HELIX-Atlanta can help facilitate environmental public health decision-making and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions • Information from HELIX-Atlanta can be used to monitor and detect changes in selected environmental public health events • Information from HELIX-Atlanta can help to develop environmental public health hypotheses for research.	HELIX-Atlanta will link data from five metro Atlanta counties. • HELIX-Atlanta has five teams working on methods to link data. • These teams are focusing on birth defects, developmental disabilities, cancer, respiratory health, and water issues • Initial results will be available in May 2005. HELIX-Atlanta will be part of the national Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Network • It will be a nationwide network for bringing together health and environmental information. • This nationwide computerized network will be unique. • The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are leading the effort to build the network. • DRAFT

How can HELIX-Atlanta tracking information be used?	How can HELIX-Atlanta tracking information be used? continued	How are local agencies, health advocates, and others being involved in the HELIX-Atlanta project?	How are local agencies, health advocates, and others being involved in the HELIX-Atlanta project? continued	HELIX-Atlanta 5-County Metro Area	For more information	CDC
Communities will learn about health and the environment in their area. The information will support community actions. The network will provide the opportunity to identify issues. Citizens will learn more about conditions in their area. Scientists can get information to help research. Scientists will be able to identify questions for research. The network will give a better view of community health over time. Scientists will be able to identify gaps where information is needed.	Officials will get information to protect and improve health. • The network will help determine where best to use resources. • The network will provide a sound basis for practices and regulations. • The network will help measure the effectiveness of programs.	HELIX-Atlanta is working to know and address the needs of local agencies. • Members of local health agencies are on groups designing the network. • Funded partners are gathering information from local agencies. • Local agencies are receiving training. Health and environmental advocates are participating in tracking activities. • They participate in five teams focusing on Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Cancer, Respiratory Health, and Water issues. • They help decide what is tracked and how successful the efforts are. • They provide information to their members and other groups.	HELIX-Atlanta and its partners are working many others to accomplish this involvement. • CDC is working with organizations to get information to and from local agencies. • Georgia Division of Public Health • DeKalb County Board of Health • Georgia Environmental Protection Division • Emory University • Georgia Institute for Technology • Kaiser Permanente Georgia • National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities • Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	Cobb Gwinnett DeKalb Clayton DRAFT	Pew Charitable Trust. 2001. America's Environmental Health Gap: Why the Country Needs a Nationwide Health Tracking Network. http://www.pewtrusts.com/ideas/ideas_item.cfm?content_item_id=539&content_type_id=8 See "HELIX" at http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking ???Contact for HELIX???	Frequently Asked Questions DRAFT